



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

JUN 27 2012

SR-6J

The Honorable Mark C. Jansen  
Michigan Senate  
520 Farnum Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-0797

Re: Former Wolverine World Wide, Inc. Tannery Site, Rockford, Michigan

Dear Mr. Jansen:

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, letter dated June 15, 2012, regarding the World Wide Former Tannery (Site) located in Rockford, Michigan. The Preliminary Assessment requested by three citizen petitions received on June 21, 2011 has been completed.

The EPA received three citizen petitions requesting an investigation of the Site, located at 123 North Main Street in Rockford, Michigan, submitted under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Under those regulations, as described in 40 C.F.R §§ 300.419(c) and 300.420, EPA must complete a Preliminary Assessment within one year of receipt of such a petition, unless the Agency determines that such an assessment is not appropriate.

In this matter, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and EPA's Superfund Removal Program participated in the Preliminary Assessment. Elevated levels of several inorganic contaminants have been detected in the surface and subsurface soils in portions of the Site. Chromium, arsenic, and mercury have been detected in sediment samples. Arsenic and chromium have also been detected in groundwater. It is likely that contaminated groundwater discharges to the Rogue River. However, EPA has concluded that a CERCLA removal response action is not warranted at this time, since the concentration and quantity of known contaminants do not present an immediate and substantial threat of release.

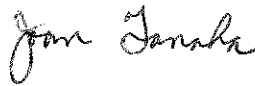
The Preliminary Assessment did determine that the Site scores above 28.50 in EPA's Hazardous Ranking System and merits further investigation. In a letter dated June 14, 2012, MDEQ recommended to EPA that the Site be referred to it for further investigation under "Other Cleanup Authority". EPA has concluded that such a referral is appropriate for the Site. MDEQ has based its request for referral upon receiving a letter from Wolverine World Wide (date June 11, 2012) in which they commit to working with the MDEQ under Section 14b of Part 201.

Section 14b requires MDEQ approval of the work being conducted. We wish to emphasize, however, that by making such a referral, EPA does not waive our authority under CERCLA. We will periodically review the work being performed at the Site, retain our enforcement authority, and reserve the ability to resume the status of lead agency if necessary. For this Site, MDEQ has agreed to report to EPA at least twice a year.

Enclosed is a copy of the Preliminary Assessment Report and MDEQ's recommendation.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (312) 353-5425 or your staff may contact Nuria Muñiz, NPL Coordinator, at (312) 886-4439, or Thomas Williams, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-0814.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Tanaka".

Joan Tanaka, Chief  
Superfund Division, Remedial Response Branch I

Enclosure

cc: David Kline (MDEQ)